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THE EC IS NOT LETTING ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL GO STALE AS

IT PURSUE ITS "DIALOGUE" WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. ANOTHER ROUND

OF THE TALKS LEADING TO A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH TEL AVIV

WAS COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 4. AND THE ISRAELIS ARE PLEASED WITH THE

PROGRESS. ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT EXPECT A FINAL AGREEMENT TO BE

SIGNED BEFORE NEXT SPRING.

THE TIMING DEPENDS ON HOW THE EC'S NEGOTIATIONS GO WITH THE MAGHREB STATES AND SPAIN. ANOTHER UNCERTAINTY--THE EC RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE--MAY DEPEND ON WHETHER THE COMMUNITY DECIDES TO GIVE SUCH AID TO EGYPT AND SYRIA.

ESRAEL AND THE EC ARE TAL-ING ABOUT A PREFERENTIAL TARDE

DATE: ORIG: UNIT:

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USE PREVIOUS

COORDINATING OFFICERS

DEPONDUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

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